

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1E

Chatanika River Corridor

MANAGEMENT INTENT

General. Five areas in this unit are designated settlement and may be offered for sale. The remainder of state land is retained in public ownership for multiple use management. The emphasis is on recreation and maintaining fish and wildlife habitat.

The Chatanika River is one of the most popular recreation, hunting, and fishing rivers for Fairbanks residents. The river corridor in Subunit 1E1 is recommended for legislative designation as a State Recreation River (see also Chapter 4, Areas Recommended for Legislative Designation). Areas within this subunit are recommended as a high priority for enforcement of state water quality standards because of the potential for water quality problems from mineral development.

Fish and Wildlife. Fish and wildlife habitat is designated a primary use in Subunit 1E1. The river is critical-rated habitat for spawning and rearing salmon, and prime-rated habitat for resident fish. The riparian corridor along the river is a special value area (A-2 habitat; see Appendix A, *Glossary*).

Forestry. Forestry is designated a primary use in Subunit 1E3. This subunit has valuable forest resources and is adjacent to the Tanana Valley State Forest. This subunit will remain in public ownership and be managed primarily for its forest values. The state forest plan recommends adding Subunit 1E3 to the state forest. This plan endorses the recommendation.

Minerals. Subunit 1E1, Chatanika River Corridor, is closed to new mineral entry and coal leasing because of conflicts with the important recreation and habitat values. The settlement areas in Subunit 1E2 will be closed to mineral entry at the time of sale. Subunit 1E3 is open to mineral entry.

Recreation. Recreation is designated a primary use in Subunit 1E1 and a secondary use in Subunits 1E2 and 1E3. The Chatanika River in Subunit 1E1 is very popular with Fairbanks residents for hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife viewing, and motorized and non-motorized boating. There are very few clearwater streams with developed access in the Basin. Of these, the Chatanika is the least developed river close to Fairbanks. Subunit 1E1 will be retained in state ownership and managed to maintain

these existing uses. See Subunit 1U2 for additional management intent and guidelines for this river corridor. Access will be maintained. At the same time, development likely to change the character of the river or the productivity of the habitat along the river will be minimized.

The Tanana Valley State Forest Plan recommends deleting its Subunit 4b from the state forest and adding it to Subunit 1E1, Chatanika River Corridor. This plan endorses that recommendation. If the portion of the state forest is added to Subunit 1E1, it will be managed according to intent and guidelines specified in this plan.

Settlement. Settlement is designated a primary use in Subunit 1E2. Approximately 100 acres may be offered for private ownership.

Little Willow Subdivision (1E2a) 100 acres

Four areas in Subunit 1E2 have been offered for private ownership. The acreage shown is the acreage available over-the-counter as of May, 1984, and may not be the maximum offering. A portion of the developable land may be available for additional offerings.

Bears Den Subdivision	134 acres
Haystack Subdivision	5 acres
Haystack Extension Subdivision	195 acres
McCloud Subdivision	80 acres

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Management guidelines that apply to all state land are listed in Chapter 2. Some or all of those guidelines may apply to uses in this unit.

River Corridor (Subunit 1E1)

1. River crossings will be consolidated to the maximum extent feasible. Necessary road crossings will be located and designed to minimize the impact on views, habitat, and recreational values.
2. State Recreation River legislation may require that a management plan be prepared. A management plan may reconsider the prohibitions against mineral entry, remote cabins, settlement, and commercial leases within the subunit.

3. Public use cabins are recommended for the corridor.
4. Consistent with the purpose for which the corridor is established, siting facilities within one-quarter mile of the ordinary water mark of the Chatanika River will be avoided to the extent feasible and prudent. This guideline does not apply to public use cabins.
5. Oil and gas exploration and development activities will be sited and timed to mitigate impact of the fish and wildlife habitat and public use values of the river corridor. Specific mitigation measures will be developed as part of the lease sale process. Timing, topography, vegetation, and other factors should be considered.

LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT 1E: *Chatanika River Corridor*

Subunit	Primary Surface Uses	Secondary Surface Uses	Subsurface ¹	Prohibited ² Surface Use	Comments
1E1	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Closed to location Closed to coal	Land disposals Leases Remote cabins	Chatanika River Corridor is recommended for state recreation river status, generally 1/4 mile either side of mean high water. See also Subunit 1U1
1E2	Settlement	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Closed prior to sale	Remote cabins	Plan map legend: 1E2 - Little Willow S Past Projects: Bear's Den S Haystack S Haystack Ext. S McCloud S All disposals will be located more than 1/4 mile from the Chatanika River
1E3	Forestry	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Open	Land disposals Remote cabins	

¹ Subsurface designations refer to locatable minerals. All areas are available for leasing for leasable minerals, except as noted for coal.

² Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management-intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.